(b) whether Government have evolved any plan of action for attaining the stage of sustainable development without damaging the ecological balance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) India is a signatory to the Montreal Protocol, an international agreement dealing with prevention of Ozone depleting process which involves phasing out of substances known to deplete ozone layer. The Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol provides funds for projects to the existing industrial units for conversion of their manufacturing processes to Ozone friendly technologies. New units are being encouraged to opt for only Ozone friendly technologies.

(b) and (c) Number of steps has been taken under the Country Programme, which has been developed as a result of a unique cooperation between industry and Government organizations to phase out Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). These steps include *inter-alia* awareness generation, assistance from Multilateral Fund for ODS phase-out project, fiscal measures and regulatory measures.

Joint ventures with British Entrepreneurs

1559. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign direct investment, joint ventures and other collaboration deals signed with British entrepreneurs following the meeting of the Confederation of Indian Industries in Calcutta; and

(b) the main sectors of industry, including infrastructure in which investment and collaboration arrangements have been signed?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The meeting organised by CII at Calcutta from January 9-11-1997 was of exploratory nature and provided an opportunity to have close interaction between industry representatives of India & Britain. During the meeting a number of agreements for cooperation between the companies of two countries were signed and announcements to that effect made. There is an inherent time lag between the impact of such investment meets and actual flow of FDI.

Strategies to boost FDI

1560. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the specific strategies to boost foreign direct investment inflow to ten billion dollars a year;

(b) the details of the sectors being contemplated and names of countries wherefrom foreign investment is expected; and

(c) how much FDI have been received since 1991-92 till this day, year-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) With an intention to boost Foreign Direct Investment, the Government has initiated various steps. These include revamping of FIPB, issue of a set of guidelines for considering proposals, various promotional initiatives by the FIPB and seeting up of Foreign Investment Promotion Council (FIPC). The Council would comprise professionals from Industry and Commerce and would undertake investment promotion and marketing activities vigorously to achieve the desired increase in the inflow of foreign investment.

(b) The need for FDI is felt in the priority and infrastructure sector. The major investing countries as per available records, are UK, USA. Mauritius, Japan and Israel.